

## Message Text

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 11921

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VE EALR ECRP

SUBJECT: CERP 0002 ANNUAL REPORT ON VENEZUELAN RELATIONS WITH  
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

PART I - APPRAISAL OF POLITICAL/ECONOMIC/MILITARY RELATIONS:  
THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN VENEZUELA'S RELATIONS WITH  
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS WAS THE RECOGNITION  
OF CUBA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LARGE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS,  
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF A 35-YEAR OLD AMBASSADOR, NORBERTO HERNANDEZ  
CURBELLO. THE CUBAN EMBASSY HAS CHOSEN AN ACTIVIST POSTURE AND HAS  
SCORED SUCCESSES IN CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, PRESS PENETRATION, TOURIS  
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PROMOTION, AND OFFICIAL EXCHANGES. IRONICALLY, THIS ACTIVISM HAS  
ALSO CREATED PUBLIC IMAGE PROBLEMS FOR THE CUBAN EMBASSY, WHICH THE  
PRESS HAS ACCUSED OF BEING STAFFED WITH SUBVERSIVES AND SPIES. THE  
CASTRO GOVT'S INTRUSION INTO THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN HAVANA IN  
SEPT 1975 TO SEIZE 2 POLITICAL REFUGEES FURTHER TARNISHED  
THE CUBAN IMAGE. DESPITE THESE SETBACKS, THE CUBAN DIPLOMATIC  
EFFORT IN VENEZUELA IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE REASONABLY EFFECTIVE.  
BOTH THE SOVIET AND CUBAN AMBASSADORS ARE HIGHLY VISIBLE - THE  
PRC AMBASSADOR (WHO HAS JUST ARRIVED) LESS SO. ALL 3 OF THESE  
EMBASSIES ARE QUITE ACTIVE. THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE CONCENTRATING  
ON TRADE PROMOTION, WHICH THE CHINESE SEEM ACTIVE, IF NOT NOTABLY

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SUCCESSFUL, ON ALL FRONTS. THE EAST EUROPEANS, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE

AND THE NORTH KOREANS ARE ALSO PURSUING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA.

THIS GROWING ATTENTION TO VENEZUELA BY COMMUNIST GOVTS REFLECTS THE GOV'S OWN DESIRE TO ENGAGE FULLY IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY AND TO PLAY AN ACTIVIST ROLE AMONG THE 3RD WORLD. THE GOV'S NATIONALIZATION POLICIES, INCREASINGLY STATE-ORIENTED ECONOMY, AND ECONOMIC POWER AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF OPEC AND A LEADING OIL EXPORTER ALSO MAKE THE GOV AN INVITING TARGET FOR DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

THERE ARE NO COMMUNIST MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN VENEZUELA.

PART II - LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP:

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA (PARTIDO COMUNISTA VENEZOLANO-PCV) HAS CONTINUED TO LOSE PRESTIGE AND SUPPORT, AS REFLECTED BY THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT UNITED IRON MINERS' ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE PCV AND 4 OTHER SMALLER PARTIES PLACED A VERY POOR 5TH. PARTY MEMBERSHIP PROBABLY RUNS TO NO MORE THAN 3,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS. THE PCV'S YOUTH WING, THE VENEZUELAN COMMUNIST YOUTH (JUVENTUD COMUNISTA VENEZOLANA - JCV) HAS NOT RECOVERED FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE 1974 PARTY SPLIT WHICH RESULTED IN THE FORMATION OF THE COMMUNIST VANGUARD PARTIDO (PARTIDO VANGUARDIA COMUNISTA). THE JCV PROBABLY HAS NO MORE THAN 1,500 MEMBERS.

THE COMMUNIST VANGUARD PARTY (PVC) HAS ENJOYED A RAPID GROWTH SINCE ITS SPLIT FROM THE PCV IN THE SPRING OF 1974. THE PVC IS IN THE PROCESS OF GAINING ITS POSITION AS A LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY AND HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING THE REQUIRED 22,000 SIGNATURES FROM A MINIMUM OF 12 STATES. THE PARTY IS NOW SECURING SEVERAL THOUSAND ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES FROM TWO OTHER VENEZUELAN STATES AND THE FEDERAL DISTRICT AS AN ADDED MEASURE OF SECURITY. THUS, THE PVC SHOULD OBTAIN ITS LEGAL RECOGNITION WITHIN 3-6 MONTHS. ONCE THIS IS OBTAINED, PVC LEADERS HAVE ALLEGEDLY BEEN ASSURED BY THE SOVIET UNION THAT THEY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. CURRENT ACTIVE MEMBER SHIP OF THE PVC IS ESTIMATED TO BE 5,000 -8,000

THE MOVEMENT TO SOCIALISM (MOVIMIENTO AL SOCIALISMO - MAS) IS EASILY THE MOST INFLUENTIAL OF THE FAR LEFTIST PARTIES AND IS THE ONLY SUCH PARTY VIEWED WITH CONCERN BY THE TWO LEADING PARTIES, AD AND COPEI. BY CONTRAST WITH THE PCV, MAS DID WELL IN THE UNITED IRON MINERS ELECTION. MAS HAS ENJOYED SUCCESS AMONG LABOR AND STUDENT GROUPS, AND IS PICKING UP SUPPORT FROM SOME OF THOSE ELEMENTS OF

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THE POPULATION THAT ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF PRESIDENT

T  
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND HIS DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (ACCION DEMOCRATICA - AD). WHILE MAS HAS RESISTED TIES WITH FOREIGN COMMUNIST GROUPS IN THE PAST, IN CONTRAST TO THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN VENEZUELA, MAS HAS FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1974. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IN MAS IS ESTIMATED AT 10,000 - 12,000,

WITH PERHAPS ANOTHER 15,000 - 20,000 ACTIVE SYMPATHIZERS.

PART III - DIPLOMATIC, CONSULAR AND TRADE MISSION RELATIONS  
BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES:

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND THE  
INSTALLATION OF THE PRC MISSION IN VENEZUELA HIGHLIGHTED VENEZUELA'S  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES DURING THE PAST YEAR.  
THE CUBANS OPENED THEIR MISSION IN THE SUMMER OF 1975. IN ADDITION,  
THEY REPORTEDLY PLAN TO OPEN CONSULAR OFFICES IN SAN ANTONIO DE  
TACHIRA AND MARACAIBO, SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ALTHOUGH BY  
AGREEMENT THEY ARE LIMITED TO 15 OFFICERS, THERE ARE CURRENTLY 16  
CUBANS DIPLOMATICALLY ACCREDITED TO VENEZUELA, FIVE OF WHOM ARE  
KNOWN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. AN ADDITIONAL 20 CUBAN OFFICIALS ARE  
CURRENTLY IN THE COUNTRY ON TRANSIT VISAS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF  
CUBANS INCLUDING WIVES WHO OFTEN WORK, AND CHILDREN IS NOW 72.  
OCCASIONAL ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN THE VENEZUELAN PRESS CRITICIZING  
THE SIZE OF THE OFFICIAL CUBAN ESTABLISHMENT HERE AND CHARGING  
THAT THESE CUBAN OFFICIALS ARE EXPERTS IN ESPIONAGE, SUBVERSION  
AND PROPAGANDA. A RECENT ARTICLE ALLEGED THAT THESE OFFICIALS ARE,  
IN EFFECT, KGB AGENTS. THE CUBAN EMBASSY IS OFF TO A SHAKY START  
IN TERMS OF ITS PUBLIC IMAGE IN VENEZUELA.

ALTHOUGH LING CHING, THE PRC AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA, ARRIVED  
ON OCT 22, 1975 AND PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON NOV 5, THE PRC  
MISSION HAS BEEN OPERATING IN VENEZUELA SINCE SEPT 1974. THERE ARE  
APPROXIMATELY 55 INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY OCCUPYING THE TEMPORARY  
EMBASSY COMPOUND. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES COOKS, GARDENERS, ETC., ALL  
BROUGHT FROM CHINA TO SERVICE THE MISSION. DURING THE PAST YEAR THE  
CHINESE HAVE DILIGENTLY, BUT WITHOUT CONSPICUOUS SUCCESS,  
ATTEMPTED TO LAUNCH THEMSELVES INTO THE VENEZUELAN SCENE, AND  
HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON MAKING CONTACTS WITHIN THE MINISTRY  
OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CORDIPLAN, AND THE  
FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE. IN ADDITION TO THESE ATTEMPTS, PRC  
REPS HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME IN GETTING TO KNOW 3RD WORLD  
DIPLOMATS IN CARACAS. THE MISSION HAS ALSO ENGAGED IN A SEARCH FOR  
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PERMANENT EMBASSY QUARTERS, WHICH THUS FAR HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.  
UNDER THE ACTIVE LEADERSHIP OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR N.  
KAZIMIROV, WHO ARRIVED LAST MAY, THE SOVIETS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR  
EFFORT TO EXPAND TRADE WITH VENEZUELA. A SOVIET TRADE MISSION  
VISITED CARACAS IN THE SPRING OF 1975 AND MADE SEVERAL FIRM  
COMMERCIAL OFFERS. THE MISSION, HOWEVER, WAS ALMOST A TOTAL  
FAILURE, DUE IN PART TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATIVE  
BUNGLING, WHICH PREJUDICED THE VENEZUELAN AGENTS AGAINST THE MISSION.  
IN GENERAL, THE SOVIET COMMERCIAL EFFORT STILL SUFFERS FROM  
VENEZUELAN SUSPICION OF THE QUALITY OF SOVIET GOODS AND THE  
AVAILABILITY OF REPLACEMENT PARTS. THE SOVIETS HAVE ALSO OFFERED  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
VENEZUELA'S PETROLEUM AND HYDROELECTRIC INDUSTRIES. FURTHERMORE,  
THEY ARE PREPARED TO HELP TRAIN VENEZUELAN TECHNICIANS AND HAVE  
EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE CREATION OF A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN

VENEZUELA STAFFED BY SOVIET PROFESSORS. THE VENEZUELAN HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THESE, BUT APPARENTLY HAVE NOT COMMITTED THEMSELVES.

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THE CZECHS, HUNGARIANS, POLES, ROMANIANS, AND YUGOSLAVS ARE ALSO ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND THEIR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA, AGAIN, WITH ONLY MINOR SUCCESS. THE HUNGARIANS DID SUCCEED IN SELLING A NUMBER OF BUSES TO THE FEDERAL DISTRICT IN EARLY 1975, BUT THE SALE WAS SURROUNDED BY CHARGES OF BRIBERY. WHILE THE VENEZUELAN WANT TO PLURALIZE THEIR RELATIONS IN BOTH THE POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS, THE EASTERN EUROPEANS, LIKE THE SOVIETS, SUFFER FROM THE LOCAL SUSPICION OF THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS. THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE APPEAR TO BE SEEKING TIES WITH THE GOV. SOUTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER, MME. NGUYEN THI BINH, VISITED VENEZUELA LAST SEPT AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VENEZUELAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING VIETNAM'S PETROLEUM RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH THE GOV RECOGNIZED NORTH KOREA IN OCT 1974, THE 2 COUNTRIES HAVE NOT EXCHANGED RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. (A DETAILED STATISTICAL CERP REPORT ON VENEZUELA'S TRADE WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES FOR THE PERIOD 1973 TO EARLY 1975 IS UNDER PREPARATION AND WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY TO THE DEPARTMENT). PART IV A - CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES: ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS AND EASTERN EUROPEANS PERIODICALLY OFFER CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, SUCH AS ART EXHIBITIONS, FILM SHOWINGS, VISITING ARTISTS, ETC., THE DISTANCE FROM HOME TO VENEZUELA LIMITS

PRESENTATIONS HERE. LOCAL RESPONSE TO THESE OFFERINGS HAS BEEN MILD..

THE USSR OFFERED ONE STAGE SHOW, "SAMOZVET--SONGS AND DANCES FROM SECRET

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MOSCOW", AND SENT A DELEGATION OF WRITERS AS WELL AS A PEACE DELEGATION TO VENEZUELA. VERONICA DUDAROVA, THE ONLY FEMALE CONDUCTOR IN THE SOVIET UNION, APPEARED AS GUEST CONDUCTOR FOR THE VENEZUELAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN CARACAS AND FOR THE MARACAIBO SYMPHONY. THE CHINESE HELD A TRADE FAIR AND FILM FESTIVAL IN DECEMBER 1974. THE TRADE FAIR WAS FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL AS THE EXHIBITS ATTRACTED A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST AND A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF VISITORS. ALSO, THE CHINESE MISSION USED THE FAIR AS A MEANS TO MAKE CONTACTS IN THE COMMUNITY. THE FILM FESTIVAL, HOWEVER, WAS A COMPLETE FLOP AND WAS SOON ABANDONED.

THE CUBANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE BEEN NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE CULTURAL FIELD. THE RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA HAS RESULTED IN A SHARP INCREASE IN CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN CUBA AND VENEZUELA IN THE LAST YEAR. IN ADDITION TO THE CUSTOMARY ATHLETIC EXCHANGES, CUBA SENT ITS NATIONAL BALLET COMPANY WITH PRIMA BALLERINA ALICIA ALONSO TO CARACAS FOR A WEEK OF PERFORMANCES AT POPULAR PRICES. VENEZUELAN BALLERINA ZHANDRA RODRIGUEZ HAD TOURED CUBA EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

ANOTHER MAJOR VISIT WAS THAT OF A YOUTH DELEGATION FROM THE ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY TO CUBA FOR 10 DAYS. THE GROUP, HEADED BY AD YOUTH SECRETARY HECTOR ALONZO LOPEZ, WAS INVITED BY FIDEL CASTRO. A GROUP HEADED BY THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSIDAD DEL ORIENTE WAS INVITED BY THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA TO TOUR CUBAN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. ANOTHER GROUP REPRESENTING THE VENEZUELAN COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION, HEADED BY THE DAUGHTER OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, VISITED CUBA ON THE INVITATION OF THE CUBAN INSTITUTE OF ART AND FILM INDUSTRIES (ICAIC). IN TURN, CARACAS WAS VISITED BY CUBAN WRITER ALEJO CARPENTIER, AND SEVERAL MINOR MUSICAL GROUPS, WHOSE PRESENTATIONS WERE SPONSORED BY THE FEDERAL DISTRICT GOVT.

THE LEVEL OF ACADEMIC EXCHANGES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAS INCREASED SOMEWHAT IN THE LAST YEAR. UNDER THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, WHICH HAS SENT 3,200 STUDENTS TO THE U.S. 10 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ROMANIA AND 30 TO THE USSR. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WITH THE USSR FOR SHARED FINANCING OF THE 30 STUDENTS. VENEZUELA IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR TRANSPORTATION COSTS, WHILE USSR ASSUMES ALL OTHER EXPENSES AND SELECTS THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL BE STUDYING PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, METALLURGY AND ECONOMICS.

THE VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION ANNOUNCED THIS YEAR SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SECRET

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UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA, YUGOSLAVIA AND WITH THE INSTITUTE JOZEF LJUBLJANA. IN AUG, THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST AND CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA (UCV) SIGNED AN EDUCATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENT.

PART IV B - INFORMATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN EXCHANGES:

THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE CONTINUED AND, IN SOME CASES, HAVE SLIGHTLY INCREASED THE LEVEL OF THEIR ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA WITH REGARD TO VISITING JOURNALISTS, SPORTS ACTIVITIES, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, ETC. THE CUBANS, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THEIR ABILITY TO BLEND INTO THE VENEZUELAN SCENE, ARE BY FAR THE MOST ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL IN THIS FIELD. ALTHOUGH THE CHINESE ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO GET INTO THE SWING OF THE OFFICIAL, BUSINESS AND SOCIAL COMMUNITIES, THE CHINESE HAVE BENEFITED BY THE PRESENT-DAY INTEREST AND CURIOSITY IN CHINA AND THINGS CHINESE. CHINA OFFERED ONE CULTURAL PRESENTATION, A MUSICAL SHOW.

THE CHINESE HAVE DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY TO DEVELOPING CONTACTS IN THE SPORTS FIELD. IN APR 1975 CHINESE PING PONG AND BADMINTON TEAMS CAME TO CARACAS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND MATCHES WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITY TEAMS. IN JULY THE CHINESE INVITED SOME OF VENEZUELA'S BEST SWIMMERS TO CHINA. ALTHOUGH AT THE LAST MINUTE SOME OF THE VENEZUELAN CANCELED OUT BECAUSE CHINA IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE WORLD SPORTS FEDERATION, SEVERAL OF THE SWIMMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TRAVELED TO CHINA AT PRC EXPENSE.

NOVOSTI, TASS AND IZVESTIA MAINTAIN OFFICES IN CARACAS. REPRINTS OF THEIR ARTICLES GENERALLY ARE CONFINED TO THE LOCAL COMMUNIST PRESS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN GETTING BETTER PLACEMENT RECENTLY IN THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS, NOTABLY EL NACIONAL.

THE PRINCIPAL LOCAL ORGANS OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA ARE THE NEWSPAPERS PUNTO (INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM AND SOCIALISM) AND TRIBUNA POPULAR (SOVIET LINE). THE FORMER IS DAILY AND THE LATTER IS WEEKLY. THE RECENTLY-ARRIVED CUBAN AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS HAVE MADE COURTESY CALLS ON MOST NEWSPAPERS AND SOME MAGAZINES, AND THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO GIVEN OCCASIONAL PRESS CONFERENCES. THE CUBAN EMBASSY HELD A RECEPTION RECENTLY FOR THE PRES

S WHICH WAS WELL ATTENDED.

THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY NOW HAS TWO CHINESE NEWSMEN IN CARACAS. DURING THE 9 MONTHS SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL, THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING HARD TO MAKE CONNECTIONS WITHIN VENEZUELAN PRESS CIRCLES, LARGELY WITHOUT SUCCESS. THEY COMPLAIN THAT MOST OF THE LOCAL PRESS IS ORIENTED ALONG SOVIET AND CUBAN LINES; THEREFORE, THEY ARE UNABLE TO BREAK IN. THE CHINESE NEWSMEN SEEM MOST INTERESTED IN OBTAINING SECRET

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OFFICIAL GOVT PRESS RELEASES ON PETROLEUM AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. THE CUBAN NEWS AGENCY, PRENSA LATINA, HAS GREATLY EXPANDED ITS ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR. PRENSA LATINA NOW HAS 11 STAFF REPORTERS, OF WHOM AT LEAST 2 ARE CUBAN NATIONALS, A PHOTOGRAPHER AND A SECRETARIAL STAFF. THE CUBAN AGENCY HAS GOOD CONTACTS

WITHIN GOVT CIRCLES AND THE JOURNALISTIC COMMUNITY. IN ADDITION,  
IT HAS GREAT INFLUENCE IN THE LEFTIST-ORIENTED PRESS UNION.  
SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, TOURIST CHARTER  
FLIGHTS TO CUBA TAKE PLACE EACH WEEK AND ARE ADVERTISED IN THE PRESS  
RADIO AND TELEVISION. PRIOR TO THE EXCHANGE OF MISSIONS, CHARTER  
FLIGHTS TO CUBA WERE ARRANGED BY THE INSTITUTE OF CUBAN FRIENDSHIP  
(IVCA). WITH THE COMING OF THE OFFICIAL CUBANS, THE IVCA'S  
SIGNIFICANCE HAS DIMINISHED.  
SINCE THE OPENING OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA, A VENEZUELAN/CHINESE  
FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HAS BEEN FORMED. THIS GROUP IS EXTREMELY SMALL  
AND NOT AS YET FULLY ORGANIZED.  
SEVERAL VENEZUELAN LEADERS VISITED COMMUNIST COUNTRIES DURING  
THE PAST 12 MONTHS. A LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER FROM THE  
CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST (COPEI) PARTY, LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS, VISITED  
YUGOSLAVIA. THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES  
VISITED THE PRC AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS (AND  
OF AD PARTY) VISITED THE PRC, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY. THE  
GOV MINISTER OF EDUCATION VISITED THE  
PRC AND USSR.  
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